

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7           UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8           WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9           AT SEATTLE

10          UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. CR19-0250JLR

11                 Plaintiff,

12                 v.

13          CHRISTOPHER SINFIELD,

14                 Defendant.

---

15          UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. CR20-0221JLR

16                 Plaintiff,

17                 v.

18          CHRISTOPHER SINFIELD,

ORDER ON DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO REOPEN  
DETENTION HEARING

19                 Defendant.

---

20          This matter comes before the court upon Defendant's Motion to Reopen Detention  
21 Hearing. (CR20-0221JLR, Dkt. # 18 and CR19-0250JLR, Dkt. # 15.) For the reasons  
22 stated below, the Motion is DENIED.

1       Defendant was previously convicted in the District of Arizona of Conspiracy to  
2 Transport Illegal Aliens for Profit on July 25, 2019. His sentence included 36 months of  
3 supervision. At his request, supervision was transferred to the Western District of  
4 Washington.

5           On October 1, 2020, Defendant began conversing with an undercover FBI agent  
6 who was posing as a 13-year-old girl. Events unfolded, resulting in Defendant being  
7 arrested and charged in King County Superior Court with Attempted Rape of a Child,  
8 Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor, and Communication with a Minor for Immoral  
9 Purposes.

10          On December 16, 2020, the Federal Grand Jury indicted Defendant on Attempted  
11 Enticement of a Minor and Possession of Child Pornography. (Dkt. #1.) Defendant was  
12 ordered detained and remanded into custody. (Dkt. # 13.)

13           Once a defendant has been detained, that defendant may reopen his detention  
14 hearing “at any time before trial” only “if the judicial officer finds that information exists  
15 that was not known to the movant at the time of the hearing and that has a material  
16 bearing on the issue whether there are conditions of release that will reasonably assure  
17 the appearance of such person as required and the safety of any other person and the  
18 community.” 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f).

19           Defendant now moves the court to reopen his detention hearing pursuant to 18  
20 U.S.C. § 3142(f) and issue an order releasing Defendant from custody. (Dkt. # 18.) The  
21 Defendant offers four reasons in support of his motion. First, the Defendant is  
22 “intellectually disabled.” Second, the court should distrust Defendant’s post-arrest

1 statements. Third, the Government's evidence is weak. And lastly, the Defendant has  
2 proposed a Release Plan.

3 The Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§3142, *et seq.*, provides for release unless no  
4 condition, or combination of conditions, will reasonably assure the appearance of the  
5 person as required and the safety of the community. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c)(2).

6 Defendant is subject to two proceedings: 1) the current indictment (CR20-  
7 0221JLR) and 2) the revocation proceeding (CR19-0250). In the revocation proceeding,  
8 Defendant acknowledges he faces a rebuttable presumption of detention and bears the  
9 burden of showing by clear and convincing evidence that he won't flee or pose a danger.  
10 (Dkt. # 15 at 18.) The Bail Reform Act provides four factors for the court to consider.  
11 The court has reviewed the pleadings from the original detention request and is  
12 independently satisfied that detention was appropriate. Reviewing the four new reasons  
13 submitted by Defendant the court is unable to find a basis to now order release from  
14 custody. First, the court is aware that Defendant is "intellectually challenged." The  
15 second and third reasons go to the strength of the Government's case, which usually is  
16 not a decisive factor in the pretrial release test. Finally, the court is skeptical of  
17 Defendant's Release Plan which involves his mother, who was his guardian during the  
18 period of Defendant's behavior at issue here, providing his supervision.

19 For every argument put forward by the Defendant, there is an answer in the record  
20 before the court. The court is unable to find any condition, or combination of conditions,  
21  
22

1 which will reasonably assure Defendant's appearance and protect the community. For  
2 this reason, the Motion is DENIED.<sup>1</sup>

3 Dated this 20th day of May, 2021.

4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22



The Honorable James L. Robart  
U.S District Court Judge

---

<sup>1</sup> Defendant requests a Detention Hearing so the Defendant can present additional unspecified evidence. The court declines to accept counsel's representation of additional evidence after it grants a hearing. The court finds oral argument would not be helpful. See Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).